REMARKS

Claims 1-43 remain pending in the application.

The Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider earlier rejections in light of the following remarks. No new issues are raised nor is further search required as a result of the changes made herein. Entry of the Amendment is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-43 over Milliken

In the Office Action, claims 1-43 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,978,384 to Milliken ("Milliken"). The Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Claims 1-43 recite a system and method for **adjusting a range** of acceptable nonce values within an acceptance window/replay mask based on a largest nonce value yet seen.

Milliken appears to disclose a method of sequence checking (Abstract). Sequence numbers of data packets are compared to a "sliding" window indicating a range of sequence numbers considered valid (or invalid) (see Abstract). The window size may be varied based on the expected data rate (or packet rate) of the security association, or the expected maximum delay changes associated with a packet reordering event in a network (see Milliken, col. 9, lines 8-30).

Thus, Milliken appears to disclose a "sliding" window. However, the "sliding" window's size is based on the expected data rate (or packet rate) of the security association, or the expected maximum delay changes associated with a packet reordering event in a network, not based on a largest nonce value yet seen. Thus, Milliken fails to disclose a system and method for **adjusting a range** of acceptable nonce values within an acceptance window/replay mask based on a largest nonce value yet seen, as recited by claims 1-43.

A benefit of **adjusting a range** of acceptable nonce values within an acceptance window/replay mask based on a largest nonce value yet seen is, e.g., reduce confusion between sessions. An acceptance window/replay mask is

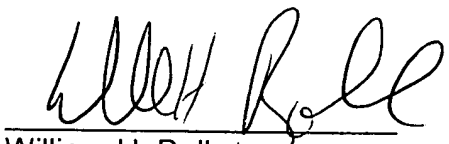
used to reject data associated with nonce values that are outside of an acceptable range, i.e., having a nonce values that are too big and/or too small. However it may be desirable in some instances to adjust the size of an acceptance window/replay mask, such as when starting a new session and resetting a nonce value. A previous session's large nonce value may play havoc on a new session starting with small nonce values. When switching sessions to restrict acceptance of a previous session's large nonce values it is desirable to narrow an acceptance window/replay mask. However, once a session is underway it is desirable to broaden an acceptance window/replay mask to prevent unnecessary rejection of data associated with nonce values. The cited prior art fails to disclose or suggest the claimed features having such benefits.

Accordingly, for at least all the above reasons, claims 1-43 are patentable over the prior art of record. It is therefore respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

Conclusion

All objections and rejections having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the subject application is in condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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